

(c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as per its extant branch licensing policy, the decision to open a branch has to be taken by the banks themselves keeping in view the viability aspect of branch/bank. At present, no proposal for opening branches in the State of Manipur are pending with RBI.

Tax on Export Companies

*408. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether over hundreds of exports companies are likely to be adversely hit by the new minimum alternate tax;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):

(a) Some export companies may have to pay tax under the proposed minimum alternate tax provisions.

(b) Companies operating as hundred per cent Export Oriented Units (EOUs) or as units located in Exports Processing Zone (EPZs) will not have to pay any tax under MAT during the 5-year period of tax exemption. In the case of export companies, the provisions of MAT will apply if the export profits are 70% or more of the total profits of the business. Where there is 90 per cent export turnover, tax equal to 8.6 per cent of book profits would be leviable. In cases of 80 per cent export, the burden of tax would be 4.3 per cent.

Bank Branches in West Bengal

*409. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to open more branches of public sector banks in various States including West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Under the extant branch licensing policy of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), it is left to the judgement of commercial banks to open branches in metropolitan, urban and semi urban centres after assessing the need therefor the obtaining the approval of RBI. The proposals for opening of rural branches identified by the banks which are recommended by State Governments/ Union Territories are also considered by the RBI on merits.

However, RBI have given freedom to banks which fulfil the under mentioned criteria to open new branches :

(i) compliance with capital adequacy norm of 8 per cent;

(ii) minimum owned funds of Rs. 100 crores;

(iii) the banks showing net profits for three consecutive years;

(iv) non-performing assets not exceeding 15 per cent of total outstanding loans.

RBI have advised the banks satisfying the above criteria submit to them a yearly plan duly approved by their Board of Directors for opening branches to enable RBI to advise their concerned Regional Offices for issue of licences.

RBI have further reported that during the year 1995-96, they have issued 569 authorisations to public sector banks to open branches in various States/Union Territories, including 16 authorisations for West Bengal.

[English]

Pending Election Petitions

*410. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the election petitions still pending in respect of General Elections held in 1991 and 1996, separately;

(b) the reasons for the delay in disposal; and

(c) the steps taken for expeditious disposal of these election petitions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) The requisite information as made available by the Election Commission in respect of certain States is enclosed as Statements I-IV which are laid on the Table of the House. The information from the remaining States is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Under election law, trial of an election petition should, so far as is practicable consistency with the interests of justice in respect of the trial, be continued

from day to day until its conclusion and endeavour should be made to conclude the trial within six months from the date on which the election petition is presented to the High Court for trial. However, examination of a large number of witnesses, seeking adjournments on various grounds and procedural wrangles, etc. are amongst the various reasons for the delay in disposal of election petitions.

(c) Government has referred the issue of pendency of election petitions to the Law Commission for a comprehensive study

STATEMENT — I

Number of election petitions pending before High Courts relating to the General Election to the House of the People held in May/June, 1991.

S.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Election petitions pending in the High Court
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1
2.	Bihar	1
3.	Maharashtra	2
4.	Rajasthan	4
5.	Uttar Pradesh	9
6.	Delhi	1
Total		18
Number of Appeals pending before Supreme Court		2

STATEMENT — II

Number of election petition pending before the High Courts relating to the General Election to the Legislative Assemblies held in 1991.

S.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Election petitions pending in the High Court
1	2	3
1.	Uttar Pradesh	8
2.	West Bengal	2
Total		10
Number of Appeals Pending before the Supreme Court		3

STATEMENT — III

Number of election petition pending before the High Courts relating to the General Election to the House of the People held in April/May, 1996.

S.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Election petitions pending in the High Court
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh (information not yet received)	
3.	Assam	8
4.	Bihar	9
5.	Goa	Nil
6.	Gujarat	4
7.	Haryana	2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3
9.	J & K (Information not yet received)	
10.	Karnataka	1
11.	Kerala	2
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5
13.	Maharashtra	7
14.	Manipur	Nil
15.	Meghalaya (Information not yet received)	
16.	Mizoram	Nil
17.	Nagaland	Nil
18.	Orissa	Nil
19.	Punjab	4
20.	Rajasthan (Information not yet received)	
21.	Sikkim	Nil
22.	Tamil Nadu	Nil
23.	Tripura	Nil
24.	U.P.	6
25.	West Bengal (Information not yet received)	
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-do-
27.	Chandigarh	Nil
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil
29.	Daman and Diu	Nil
30.	Delhi	3
31.	Lakshadweep (Information not yet received)	
32.	Pondicherry	-do-
Total		56

STATEMENT-IV

Number of election petition filed before various High Courts relating to the General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies held in April/May, 1996.

S.No	Name of State/ Union Territory	Election petitions filed before High Court
1	2	3
1	Assam	11
2	Haryana	20
3	Kerala	16
4	Tamil Nadu	8
5	West Bengal (Information not yet received)	
6	Pondicherry (Information not yet received)	
Total		55

Saving Rate

*411 SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether saving rate in the country has been declining since 1990-91;

(b) if so, the comparative figures of Gross Domestic Savings and the Gross Domestic Production since 1990-91, year-wise;

(c) the main reasons for this decline; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the savings scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : As per the latest information available with the Central Statistical Organisation the saving rate measured as a ration of gross domestic savings to gross domestic product (GDP) at current market prices rose from 23.6 per cent in 1990-91 to 24.4 per cent in 1994-95 (Quick Estimate). The trends in gross domestic savings (GDS) and GDP at current market prices are indicated below :

Year	GDS	GDP	Savings Rate %
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
(Rupees Crore)			
1990-91	126652	535534	23.6
1991-92	140647	616799	22.8

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1992-93	149365	705328	21.2
1993-94	171184	801032	21.4
1994-95 (Q)	230648	945615	24.4

Q : Quick Estimate

For promoting savings it is imperative to improve the parameters which have a bearing on savings behaviour. These include rate of growth in economy, level of fiscal deficit, tax policies, inflation, efficiency of the banking system and the capital market and confidence in the economy. The various economic reform measures undertaken so far are expected to have a favourable impact on aggregate savings. Besides, the Central Government Budget for 1996-97 presented to the Parliament a few days ago contains various measures/policy changes which are likely to have a positive impact on savings.

[Translation]

Coal supply to Badarpur Power Units

*412. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Indian Express dated August, 7, 1996 under the caption "inadequate coal supply forces closure of the Badarpur Power Units";

(b) if so, the reasons for inadequate supply of coal to two units of the Badarpur Power Unit; and

(c) the steps taken to improve present coal supply position to various power plants in the country particularly to Badarpur Power Units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Coal companies are making supplies to the Badarpur Thermal Power Station as per linkages sanctioned to this station. However, apart from interruptions in rail movement, the coal companies are occasionally constrained to restrict the supplies of coal to the extent of payment received for coal supplies in view of the large outstanding arrears from this power station.

(c) Coal supplies to the power plants in the country, including Badarpur Thermal Power Station, are accorded the highest priority. Supply of coal to the power sector is monitored regularly by an inter-